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must be represented. The school board does its duty in the teaching force, but the community as a whole comes in through the presence of the visiting nurse, and she must have that strong sense of moral obligation that should characterize every nurse, whether she is a visiting nurse or a hospital nurse, and we feel that you would do that, and we sincerely hope that every school will have its visiting nurse.

HOW TO FORM A VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

By MARY BEARD, R.N.

Waterbury, Conn.

EVERYWHERE people are waking up to the need of visiting nursing. Everywhere new associations are springing up fostered by women's clubs, by churches of various denominations, by individuals, sometimes by city governments. From the point of view of the visiting nurse who is facing the proposition of introducing and making popular such an association there can be no doubt that much the most satisfactory management is the individual. Let him be a practical man with a working knowledge of the town and its needs and a progressive turn of mind and the lines of the new visiting nurse have fallen in pleasant places. Perhaps it would seem so rare to find such a man that this ideal "start" will be at once dismissed as impossible; but have you ever talked with the public-minded men of your town about visiting nursing?

It is astonishing how strongly this kind of work appeals to practical men and how ready and anxious they are to help support it; so I say, first have one individual and let him be a man, for your managing director. Second, be careful not to fasten a false name on your work in the beginning. Do not have the name of *anything* connected with it—visiting nurse association is most comprehensive. It explains it well and cannot antagonize. It seems to me in looking back to our beginning that two other points are worth making. Have an office hour from the very start. Patients and doctors and townspeople all have the right to demand a time to see you and the increase in new calls quickly pays for the loss of visiting time. Charge a small fee—our highest was twenty-five cents. The importance of this is great, for many of the people you may wish to reach will not come to take advantage of the nursing unless they can do their part towards the support of the nurse.

And, finally, answer all the new calls very promptly. As soon as the doctors and their patients find that business hours and business methods are employed there are more calls and more every day. My

experience makes me feel that the start of visiting nursing is almost more delightful than anything that follows—everyone wants it so much.

[Miss Beard has made several good points in the above article, but one thing of great importance is, in starting a new association, that it should be made a community affair, if the work is to ever have a real civic importance.—EDITOR.]

ITEMS

GALESBURG, ILL., has formed a new association and desires a woman of experience to take charge.

THE Visiting Nurse Association of Los Angeles, California, has just sent out a most interesting and attractive report, a portion of which will be published in this department.

THE Visiting Nurse Association of Columbus, Ohio, has an opening for a woman of experience in district work as superintendent of nurses. For further information apply to the editor.

A COMPLETE reprint of the Visiting Nurse Conference in Chicago has been printed. For copies address the editor, Miss Harriet Fulmer, 79 Dearborn Street, Chicago. Price twenty-five cents.

FORTY-TWO letters were received by the editor of this department in reference to the request for a nurse for tuberculosis work in Honolulu. It was impossible to answer them all personally, and we take this opportunity of doing so. The position has been taken by Mrs. Deans, a woman experienced in visiting nurse work, well acquainted with the people of Hawaii and used to the climate.

MUCH good work to prevent blindness among babies is being done this summer in Washington, D. C., by the Visiting Nurses' Association. Each birth recorded at the Health Office is reported to the nurses with the address and a printed list of suggestions for the mothers as to feeding, care, etc. The nurse working in that section calls, examines the conditions, and, if there is evidence of ophthalmia neonatorum, treatment is begun. Very many of these small patients have come under the notice of the nurses, requiring extra nurses for the increased work. It is to be hoped that the good results will add one reason more why Congress should appoint school nurses who could take charge of this work during the summer.

A babies' dispensary has been opened in the southwestern section of the city and a new office for district nursing in Anacostia, D. C.